

Kentucky Tech Prep Site Coordinator's Meeting

Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, Louisville, Kentucky
January 19-20, 2006

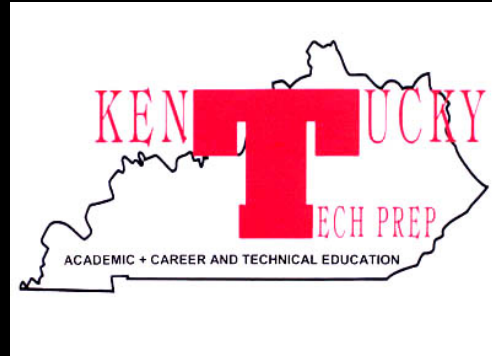


The successful implementation of Tech Prep into Kentucky schools has been developed over the past 15 years - with a lot of hard work and determination among secondary and postsecondary educators from both academic and technical education backgrounds, as well as business and industry partners. What was once a concept is now finding its way into curricula on a statewide basis. Why? Quite simply - it works when all the partners 'buy-in' to the concept and mold it into reality. Now, more than ever - 'Career Pathways' connecting education, training and jobs is critical in preparing our students for the economic development of the United States to compete in a global economy.

Dr. Ahmed Sabie
KY Tech Prep State Coordinator



**Kentucky Tech Prep
Site Coordinator's Meeting
A Message from State Director
Dr. Ahmed Sabie**



In today's world, employers must have workers who can apply higher math and science competencies for technical careers. Likewise, oral and written communication skills and the ability to solve complex problems are demands that employers want their workforce to deliver.

Tech Prep programs were developed to assist in meeting this critical demand. Over the years, academic and technical education partners have joined together to form a solid foundation for our educational system. We must continue to raise this bar because rapid changes in technology continue to revolutionize who we compete with in the global economy - and, we are competing with everyone.

The major program objective is to develop, refine and continuously improve Kentucky Tech Prep programs. Rigorous academic and technical preparation helps students to become equipped with relevant skills required to solve problems in today's competitive workforce.

We have built this year's conference around the issues and topics that coordinator's identified. It is our hope the information made available at this year's conference will assist each of you in reaching increased accountability, program improvement and greater student achievement.

Deputy Secretary Laura E. Owens



Education Cabinet Deputy Secretary Laura E. Owens made a guest appearance during the conference to support Kentucky Tech Prep efforts taking place across the state.

"We have an obligation to give students the opportunity to make choices and the role you play gets people prepared for jobs," said Owens. "It is important to incorporate academic studies with technical studies because we must all work together to get our students ready to compete. The global economy is all about economic development and the ability to compete with everyone."



OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis Carter introduced Laura Owens as an "administrator who is passionate about career and technical education."

KY Tech Prep State Director Dr. Ahmed Sabie brought in Debra Mills, the director of partnerships at CORD, as the feature speaker during this year's conference. The topic of her training workshop, "Career Pathways Kentucky" was timely, relevant and positively received by conference participants.

Mills, a co-author of the book *"Career Pathways: Education with a Purpose,"* designed and developed the workshop to provide participants with an overview of the career pathways system concept and offered ideas on how they could begin implementation. She said, "It's important for people to understand that this is not just the next buzz word, it's imperative for our survival in the global economy."

She provided background information regarding the United States as it relates to the global economy; how "career pathways" is defined and ways to develop a career pathways system. Her presentation included discussion on curriculum and course development, the connection between secondary and postsecondary education, labor market and economic development issues, the importance of a supportive advisory committee, and working with business and industry to meet their needs.

"It's all about economic development and keeping jobs in the community, and adding and expanding jobs," said Mills. "It's not education itself, but it's coordination with local economic activity that matters."





**“Career Pathways Kentucky”
Feature Speaker: Debra Mills, CORD**

Kentucky Tech Prep Site Coordinator's Comments Regarding Career Pathways Workshop

Dr. Teri Brown, director of state and emerging programs
Kenton Co. Schools



"The presentation by Debra Mills provided many good ideas for the folks attending this conference. One in particular was her 'contextual style of delivery' in trying to have people understand exactly how many students are taking advantage of postsecondary education; how many students are not prepared for postsecondary education; and how many are actually underemployed after they finish a degree in college.

The slide presented on a model career pathway from Virginia is a tool that we might be able to use in Kentucky. This model highlighted dual credits, articulated credits and potential certification opportunities for students as they transition to postsecondary education.

Another idea she presented was our need to educate all the other folks out there about what Tech Prep and career pathways are all about.

Probably one of the most practical strategies she emphasized was to involve business and industry in our Tech Prep initiative. The bottom line is helping them to understand that we want to provide a quality worker for them. We want to help build a feeder program for them, but we need to hear from them what skills are needed at various entry and exit points."



Dr. Jack McElroy, Office of Career and Technical Education

"I thought one of the outstanding pieces of information to come out of the presentation was how critical it is that we, in education, work together to educate students for a global economic system. We are not just competing in Kentucky or the United States, but rather we are competing with all the nations of the world. As a result, we have got to improve the quality of our instruction and standards in order to maintain our standard of living, as well as our economic system."



Dr. Rita Davis, Eastern KY University

"Debra Mills was excellent. I liked what she presented – especially Kentucky data and she kept us busy all day with relevant activities.

I believe that bringing some of the new concepts to us from a few of the good books out there including China Inc. and The World is Flat provided a great professional development activity to keep each of us state of the art with facts and figures.

We must work toward the goal of what's good for our students in terms of what skills and what kinds of activities we need to incorporate in our teaching methods to give our students what they need to compete with countries like China."

Gail Green, vocational department teacher leader and director of co-op/work-based learning programs, Franklin County High School

"Without a doubt, this has been the best Tech Prep conference that I have ever attended. Debra Mills was right on target. She articulated, what I feel as a vocational teacher, the importance of what we are doing in the classroom. It was a validation that what we are doing is the correct path to take. One important fact that Mrs. Mills pointed out was the value of advisory committees and their importance to what we are doing in vocational education; so, I'm going to work on forming an advisory committee for Franklin Co.'s vocational programs."

Pamela Akers Hancock, counselor, Franklin County High School

"Following Debra Mills' presentation, many separate discussions throughout the audience were taking place about the importance of business and industry partners in the overall education process. In Franklin Co, we need more personnel in the system to be able to nurture the relationship development between business and the school to get and gain the economic development strategies we need to tie in with our advisory teams."



(l) Larry Vaught, Gallatin Co.;
Tracy Devney and Janet
O'Connell, Jessamine Co.

Larry Vaught, Gallatin Co. Tech Prep coordinator

"This presentation was excellent and we have a need for more technical programs in our district. The advisory committees are critical in the overall process of helping us to define what programs we offer and how we teach the relevance of what they need in industry for our students to be successful. Debra Mills was captivating and hit all of the issues we, as educators, encounter on a daily basis."



Above: Mark Raleigh

Mark Raleigh, principal Chapman Career and Technical Center

"I thought the career pathways presentation was very helpful. Mrs. Mills gave us models so that we could go back to our school with ideas on how to establish career pathways. I thought the information that she provided to get business and industry involved was great. By finding out what they really want and need, we can develop strategies to help prepare our students to enter the workforce because it's all about economic development."

Stacy Imel, principal, Knox Co. ATC

"The career pathways subject is something that I have had an opportunity to discuss with our local principals and counselors. I'm lucky that there were two counselors here from each of the high schools and we collectively decided to put some models in place to do what we have wanted to do for a long time - to get kids in the classes that they need to have for their technical background or to go on to a four year college. When we get back home, we are going to put together a meeting with our local board and business and industry people to actually find out if we are on the right track."



(l to r): OCTE staff Tommy Sutton, Dr. Ahmed Sabie and Todd Nickens

Karen Bothun, principal, Clark Co. ATC

"In today's global economy, we are competing with countries all over the world. Debra Mills' workshop and presentation brought this issue to the forefront and provided us with examples of how we, in education, can create career pathways to better equip our students to work smarter in a competitive global market."



(l to r): Keith Parsons, Russell ATC principal; Doug Keaton and OCTE Consultant Tommy Sutton

Doug Keaton, electrical technology instructor, Russell ATC

"As new Tech Prep members, we came here with some ideas of what we wanted to accomplish. After listening to Mrs. Mills' presentation, we now have a true game plan of what we want to put into effect and an idea of how we are going to implement Tech Prep strategies. To our benefit, both an honor's physics and math teacher came we us to this meeting. We are all motivated and ready to work with the counselors in developing a career pathways system for our students."



Good News Story #151
March 17, 2006

